

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 050950Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9326

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4470

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG INTELLECTUALS PUBLICIZES SUPPORT  
FOR SOUPHANOUVONG'S 18-POINT POLITICAL PROGRAM

REF: VIENTIANE 4188

1. CHANSAMONE VORAVONG, CHAIRMAN OF SMALL BUT INFLUENTIAL  
ASSOCIATION OF INTELLECTUALS CALLED "PARTY OF NEW IDEAS (PNI)"  
HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 5 TO ISSUE STATEMENT SUPPORTING  
SOUPHANOUVONG'S 18-POINT POLITICAL PROGRAM. PNI MEMBERS  
PRESENT INCLUDED SECSTATE FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY SOMPHOU  
OUDOMVILAY AND JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL (JNPC)  
MEMBERS HENG SAYTHAIVY, YANG DAO AND VIBOUN ABHAY.

2. PNI STATEMENT CONGRATULATED JNPC FOR PRODUCING DOCUMENT  
WHOSE "POLITICAL LINES RESPOND TO ASPIRATIONS AND REAL NEEDS  
OF LAO PEOPLE." THIS PROGRAM, ACCORDING TO PNI STATE-  
MENT, IS "APPROPRIATE FOR THE NEW ERA," ALTHOUGH "ITS  
IMPLEMENTATION WILL REQUIRE MANY SACRIFICES, CHANGES IN  
OLD HABITS AND WAYS OF THINKING." IF PGNU ADOPTS PROGRAM,  
AMONG BENEFITS WHICH LAOS WILL GAIN IS "A NEUTRALITY FREE  
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FROM ALL FOREIGN INTERFERENCE."

3. IN CONCLUSION, STATEMENT INDICATES THAT THE LAO "HAVE NO REASON TO BE WORRIED." INSTEAD, THE POLITICAL PROGRAM REPRESENTS "A NEW STEP TOWARD PEACE AND A MANIFESTATION OF SINCERE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO LAO PARTIES."

4. COMMENT: THE PNI WAS FORMED IN 1971 BY A SMALL GROUP OF FOREIGN-TRAINED INTELLECTUALS WHO OCCUPIED KEY TECHNICAL POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT WHO FELT THAT THEIR UPWARD CAREER MOBILITY WAS BLOCKED BY THE OVERHANG OF AGING LAO LEADERS IN SENIOR GOVERNMENTAL POSITIONS. THERE ARE NO VIABLE POLITICAL PARTIES IN LAOS, BUT, BECAUSE OF THE ELITIST NATURE OF LAO POLITICS, SUCH GROUPS AS THE PNI HAVE INFLUENCE BEYOND THEIR NUMBERS. LIKE STATEMENT OF SISOU MANG SISALEUMSAK ON MAY 23, PNI STATEMENT REPORTED ABOVE WILL BE REGARDED AS ANOTHER SIGNAL THAT POLITICAL GROUPS IN LAOS FEEL IT NECESSARY TO BEND IN PATHET LAO DIRECTION. OF THE LEADERS OF THE PNI, YANG DAO AND VIBOUN ABHAY RECENTLY INDICATED THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT US LEADER GRANTS--OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE THEY WERE "TOO BUSY."  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Reference:** 74 VIENTIANE 4188  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG INTELLECTUALS PUBLICIZES SUPPORT FOR SOUPHANOUVONG'S 18-POINT POLITICAL PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, LA  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC BANGKOK PHNOM PENH PARIS UDORN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005